

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064689
ORIGIN SS-05

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DRAFTED BY:JCS/COL CLEVELAND NMCC

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:TGMARTIN

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R 141230Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HQUSEUCOM VAINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064689

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 1303 ACTION SECSTATE TEL AVIV INFO
DAMASCUS DATED MAR 12:

QTE:C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1303

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARAS 2 AND 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, LE, IS

SUBJECT: GOL REACTION TO PLO TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISRAEL

1. GOL FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS CALLED AMBASSADOR AT 17:30
LOCAL SUNDAY MARCH 12 RE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACK IN
ISRAEL PREVIOUS DAY. BOUTROS NOTED A) THAT PM BEGIN HAD SAID
ISRAEL HAD EVIDENCE TERRORISTS CAME FROM LEBANON; B) THAT
DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAD BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THEY
HELD LEBANON RESPONSIBLE; AND, C) THAT THERE WERE MEDIA
REPORTS OF MASSING OF ISRAELI TROOPS ALONG LEBANESE BORDER.

2. BOUTROS NOTED THAT NEITHER GOL NOR ANYONE ELSE HAD
CONTROL IN SOUTH LEBANON AND THAT IT WAS NEITHER JUST NOR
FAIR TO HOLD LEBANON RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
HE ASKED THAT THE USG ASK ISRAEL TO "REFRAIN FROM ACTION
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AGAINST US".

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED IT WAS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT ISRAEL
WOULD STAGE SAME SORT OF CROSS BORDER ACTION IN THE SOUTH.
BOUTROS SAID ANYTHING ISRAELIS DID IN THE SOUTH WOULD HAVE
REPERCUSSIONS IN LEBANON AS A WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE
WAS A SCALE OF ACTION IN SUCH MATTERS AND HE REPEATED HIS

REQUEST THAT ISRAEL "REFRAIN FROM ACTION AGAINST US".

4. COMMENT: IMPLICATION OF ABOVE REMARKS IS THAT BOUTROS UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY RETALIATE AGAINST LEBANON BUT ASKS THAT WE DISSUADE ISRAELIS FROM ATTACKING LEBANON. IT WOULD BE WRONG, HOWEVER, TO READ THIS AS GOL ACQUIESCENCE IN ANY ISRAELI CROSS BORDER OPERATION.
PARKER UNQTE VANCE

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